

From Barbara Brown, President of the Abrams Foundation

The fact that I am standing here speaking to you is a tribute to Christie. Speaking is not my favorite thing, but for Christie I would do it. I know she wants this to be a happy occasion, not a sad one, so maybe we can just consider this a large family reunion where we meet friends, have fun and reminisce about the last 5 years.

Christie has many duties and responsibilities of which I am unaware. But for me, the LOM is the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection.

I don't know exactly how my aunt and uncle would feel about this, but I have to believe they would be proud that through their foundation Lansing, Michigan and the LOM have become home to one of the premier genealogical collection in the country.

Because of my love for genealogy, I always feel I am on a mission to get everyone to climb their family tree. Christie was no exception. Surprisingly, she was very receptive to the idea and took some of the basic steps. Right away, she ran into some problems, and of course, I couldn't expect her to give up her day job to spend time at the microfilm readers, no matter how available they are. I'm sure, as time permits, she will pursue those elusive ancestors.

I, just as everyone in this room, wishes her well. We hope that her life can return to "normal" as soon as possible with her husband returning safely from Iraq. In the meantime, it will not be long before the Library of Kansas realizes how lucky they are.